From: "Bryan, David" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DE67FD66319E475AA76B7FB0C64D64B5-BRYAN, DAVID>
To: "R7 Senior" <Staff>
CC: "R7 Deputies" <R7_Deputies@epa.gov>
"R7 RGAD-OPA" <R7_RGADOPA@epa.gov>
Date: 8/5/2014 9:01:38 AM
Subject: OPA Morning Clips - 8/5/14

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Bridgeton Landfill odor settlement is approved - 8/5/14 - A $6.8 million class action settlement for residents who live closest to the smoldering Bridgeton Landfill is fair, reasonable and adequate, a federal judge has ruled. http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/health/bridgeton-landfill-odor-settlement-is-approved/article_817328d1-aa61-5248-a3ae-a89801adf843.html
KMOX Radio St. Louis - Washington Landfill Trash Can Stay, Pending Soil Test - 8/4/14 - A landfill in Washington, Mo., is overflowing, but the city might not have to move the excess trash, after all. City administrator Jim Briggs says after how bad theordor was in Bridgeton, he really doesn't want to have to move it. http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/08/04/washington-landfill-trash-can-stay-pending-soil-test/

KMOX Radio St. Louis - Radioactive Tritium, Cobalt 60 Found in Monitoring Well Near Callaway Nuclear Reactor - 8/4/14 - Ameren Missouri claims there is no threat to drinking water in the area after it found radioactive Tritium and Cobalt 60 in a monitoring well near the Callaway nuclear reactor it owns and operates. http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/08/04/radioactive-tritium-cobalt-60-found-in-monitoring-well-near-nuclear-reactor/
St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Ameren finds elevated levels of radioactive materials near Callaway plant - 8/4/14 - Ameren Missouri has reported elevated levels of radioactive materials at a new groundwater monitoring well on the campus of its Mid-Missouri nuclear power plant. http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/state-and-regional/ameren-finds-elevated-levels-of-radioactive-materials-near-callaway-plant/article_de69b7ea-86a7-54bb-a904-0058d8798f73.html

Des Moines Register - Study: Iowa lost 15 million tons of soil to erosion - 8/5/14 - Iowa farms surveyed by an environmental group have made progress during the last year stemming soil erosion, but many operations in the state remain susceptible to erosion that sends soil and chemicals flowing into streams, ditches and other waterways. http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2014/08/05/environmental-working-group-says-iowa-lost-million-tons-soil-erosion/13609603/
Radio Iowa - Branstad still on the fence over proposed pipeline - 8/4/14 - Governor Terry Branstad says he remains undecided whether to support or oppose a proposed pipeline that would carry crude oil through Iowa. Branstad says a top concern is the impact it might have on farmland. "The land here is very valuable and we need to make sure the productivity of the land is protected," Branstad told reporters today. http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/08/04/branstad-still-on-the-fence-over-proposed-pipeline/

_____
Des Moines Register

Study: Iowa lost 15 million tons of soil to erosion

By ChristopherDoering

8/5/14

http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2014/08/05/environmental-working-group-says-iowa-lost-million-tons-soil-erosion/13609603/

WASHINGTON – Iowa farms surveyed by an environmental group have made progress during the last year stemming soil erosion, but many operations in the state remain susceptible to erosion that sends soil and chemicals flowing into streams, ditches and other waterways.

The Environmental Working Group study released today said central Iowa “dodged an erosion bullet” this spring because southwestern and northeastern parts of the state were hit hardest by strong storms during April, May and June. An estimated 15 million tons of soil had been lost in Iowa through the end of June, the study found, with 30 percent of it coming from Pottawattamie, Adair, Clayton and Cass counties.

Runoff of Iowa’s nutrient-rich topsoil generally means lower yields for farmers and less income, as well as damage to Iowa lakes and streams. The soil is the foundation for agriculture, which depends on corn and soybean farmers, as well as agribusiness giants such as Deere & Co. and DuPont Pioneer, to pump millions of dollars into the state’s economy. Agriculture and related businesses provide about one-quarter of Iowa’s $152.4 billion gross domestic product.

To lessen the rate of soil erosion, agriculture producers put in grass buffers, plant cover crops, reduce or end tillage and change their fertilizer applications, among other conservation projects. As part of those efforts, 25.6 million acres, including 1.5 million in Iowa, are enrolled in the government’s Conservation Reserve Program that pays landowners an annual rent to idle environmentally fragile land for 10 years or more.

Craig Cox, EWG’s senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources, said conservation practices have been shown to work, but there are not enough farmers volunteering to use them on their operations to have a meaningful impact. States, he said, should require that farmers use basic conservation practices.

“Iowa farm fields are really vulnerable to these heavy spring storms that seem to be the norm. They lose a lot of soil, a lot of mud and farm chemicals are delivered to ditches and streams,” Cox said. “It’s intolerable that we know how to solve these problems and we’re just not doing it.”

In late May, the EWG returned to 18 farms located in central Iowa that the group had visitedfollowingheavy spring rains in 2013 to see whether farmers had put in place new conservation practices. The environmental group found five of the farms had practices in place to prevent short-lasting gullies or soil erosion, while another five had soil conservation efforts in place last year that were being maintained in 2014.

The remaining eight fields showed no sign of efforts to enhance soil conservation, with two of them showing previously failed conservation practices that had yet to be fixed.

The EWG study is the latest to look at soil erosion. In May, Rick Cruse, an Iowa State University agronomy professor, said that wind and rainstorms that carry away topsoil from farmland in the state each year could potentially cut $1 billion in yield from the state’s 88,000 farms.

A 2012 study from the Agriculture Department’s Natural Resources Conservation Service found farmers in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, which includes part of Iowa, have made “significant progress” in reducing sediment, nutrient, and pesticide losses from farm fields by adopting conservation practices, but it determined that opportunities existed for further reductions.

The report, which looked at the 63 million acres of cropland in the basin during 2003 to 2006, found 15 percent of cropped acres had ahighlevel of need for additional conservation efforts. An additional 26 million acres had a moderate need for further conservation measures.

David Miller, director of research at the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, said farmers have made substantial investments in cover crops while miles of stream buffers and terraces have been put in place to address soil erosion issues, he said.

“Maintaining and protecting Iowa’s soils is something farmers across the state take seriously and farmers are taking appropriate steps to be good stewards of the land,” Miller said. “A lot has been done. More can be done, and more is being done this year and more will be done in the coming years.”

Study: Gulf “dead zone” in 2014 will be size of Connecticut

U.S. scientists said the “dead zone” of oxygen-depletedwatersin the Gulf of Mexico in 2014 will be about average size, covering an area similar to Connecticut.

The estimate, developed by scientists including NancyRabalais at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, said the dead zone, located off of Louisiana and Texas, is about 5,052 square miles as of Aug. 1. An unusual development of this year’s dead zone is that it’s divided into two sections rather than a continuous one.

The zone is caused by nutrient runoff, primarily from human activities such as wastewater and fertilizer used to grow crops. The runoff stimulates an oversupply of algae that consumes most of the life-giving oxygen supply in the water, driving away sea life.

The largest dead zone on record was 8,480 square miles in 2002. The average size during the past five years has been 5,500 square miles.

Focus on the dead zone comes as residents in Toledo, Ohio, were temporarily banned from drinking city tap water after it was found to have a higher-than-approved toxin known as microcystin. The toxin was likely produced by algae in Lake Erie.